

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Double Arrow LookoutOther names/site number: 24MO0157

Name of related multiple property listing:

L-4 Lookouts on the Lolo National Forest

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: _____

City or town: Seeley Lake State: Montana County: MissoulaNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

____ national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A ____ B X C ____ D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:_____
Date_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:_____
Date_____
Title :_____
State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐
Public – Local ☐
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☒

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government
Other: fire lookout

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: hotel (USFS cabin rental)

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: "Readicut" L-4 Lookout House

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: N/A

Walls: WOOD / Weatherboard; GLASS

Roof: WOOD / Shingle

Other: WOOD / Log (tower) CONCRETE (tower footings)

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Double Arrow Lookout is an excellent example of the early L-4 Lookout House, designed by Clyde Fickes, and approved by the regional forester in 1931. It is located roughly three miles southwest of the small community of Seeley Lake, Montana, atop a rocky knob that overlooks the Clearwater River drainage. At an elevation of 4,941 ft. above sea level, it is less than 1,000 ft. above the valley floor. On-site vegetation consists of a variety of native grasses and forbs along with noxious weeds such as spotted knapweed. Surrounding forests contain mixed stands of Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, and Western larch. A few modifications have been made to the lookout house—mostly to address safety concerns associated with its current use as a cabin rental. Overall, however, the property possesses integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling and association. Besides the lookout, the site area contains a modern, noncontributing pit toilet, noncontributing radio relay equipment (consisting of a small metal box bolted to a concrete footing), and a flagpole. Although the date of the placement of the flagpole remains unknown, its appearance suggests it dates to the period of significance and is therefore counted as a contributing object.

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Narrative Description

Double Arrow Lookout (one contributing building). The Double Arrow Lookout is a 14 ft. by 14 ft. wood frame building with a pyramidal roof built atop a 20 foot-high, log tower. Simple drop wood siding covers the lower portion of the exterior walls, and the roof is covered with sawn cedar shingles.¹ A new stainless steel stove pipe extends above the west slope of the roof. The entry into the lookout house is located at the south end of the wall that faces east-northeast, and contains a wood door with six lights above a narrow panel. A ribbon of four, nine-light windows occupy the area above the lower wall north of the door. The remaining three walls each contain a ribbon of five, nine-light window units, two of which slide sideways allowing ventilation. Openings for the sliding sashes have been fitted with removable, wood-frame screens that can be attached to the exterior of the building.

The one-room interior, designed to serve as a lookout man's quarters and work space, has few fixed elements. The original maple floor is in good condition. With the adapted reuse of the building as a cabin rental, the wood stove was removed and the building fitted with an electric wall heater. As originally built, a trap door in the ceiling led to a small storage compartment. A ceiling-mounted ladder that used to access the compartment has been removed.

The four legs of the cross-braced tower have concrete footings. A single-flight stairway leads from the southwest corner of the tower to a trapdoor in the catwalk. The stairs have log stringers and board treads. Pole handrails are located on both sides of the stairs, and wire mesh has been attached to the stringers and handrails as a safety measure. At the top of the stairs a trapdoor provides access to the catwalk. A low gate with a spring hinge is located across the catwalk at the edge of the trapdoor.² Like the stairs, wire mesh ('hog wire') has been attached to the catwalk railing as a safety measure.

Modern pit toilet (one noncontributing building). Built sometime between 1994 and 2012, the modern pit toilet, or SST (sweet smelling toilet), is located about 110 ft. southeast of the lookout tower, on the south side of the lookout spur road. It is a one-story, wood-frame building construction on top of a concrete vault. The exterior walls are covered with simple drop siding with vertical corner board trim. The front gable roof is covered with wood shingles. The entrance in the center of the southwest wall contains a metal door with one opaque light above a vent. The entrance is shielded by a two-sided, wood-frame privacy screen that extends from the front wall of the building. A large metal vent is located adjacent to the rear (northeast) wall.

Radio Equipment Box (one noncontributing structure). The steel radio equipment box stands about 4 ft. tall and measures about 2 ½ ft. square. It rests on four small concrete blocks

¹ A materials list for the L-4 lookout called for "rustic siding", commonly known as simple drop. The terms are used interchangeably in the description. Folder: E Improvements Bitterroot General, Series BIT 5, Box 6, RG 95 Records of the Forest Service,

² The gate may have been added to the catwalk in the mid to late 1950s, when the regional office was considering the adoption of new safety codes. H. R. Jones, Assistant Regional Forester to Forest Supervisor, Bitterroot National Forest, April 26, 1957. Folder: E- Improvements – Bitterroot 1957 Lookout Replacement, Box 6, Series BIT05 Forest Supervisor's Alpha Files, circa 1900-1960; RG 95, Records of the Forest Service: Bitterroot National Forest, NARA Seattle.

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positioned at each corner of the box that sit on a larger 4 ft. by 4 ft. poured concrete pad; the four corner blocks elevate the box above the larger concrete pad. A metal pole that measures approximately 12 ft. in height is affixed to the north side of the box. It is unknown when the radio equipment was installed on the property.

Flagpole (one contributing object). The flagpole is located about 60 ft. northeast of the lookout tower. It consists of a small diameter peeled tree (about 30 ft. long), bolted between two log supports that are partially buried. The tops of the log supports are beveled.

Integrity

The Double Arrow Lookout retains all seven aspects of historical integrity. Because of the ruralness of the lookout, integrity of location, setting, feeling and association remains exceptionally strong. The lookout building and tower retain integrity of materials, workmanship, and design. Minor modifications have been made for the sake of safety as the lookout is now used as a rental cabin; these changes include replacement of the wood burning stove with an electric wall heater and the removal of an interior ladder that led to a trap door in the ceiling of the lookout. Exterior modifications include enclosing the stairs and catwalk railing with wire mesh. The lookout stands as an exceptional example of the once-common 1931-pattern L-4 Lookouts once included in the Lolo National Forest's fire detection system.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics / Government

Conservation

Engineering

Architecture

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Period of Significance

1932 - 1967

Significant Dates

1932 (year built)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Clyde Fickes (designer)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Double Arrow Lookout is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C, at a local and state level of significance. Under Criterion A, it is significantly associated with the US Forest Service's early fire detection program, which relied on a series of fixed lookout points from which to locate forest fires. Under Criterion C, Double Arrow Lookout is an excellent example of a 1931-pattern L-4 Lookout House displaying the engineering and architecture of the period.

The Double Arrow Lookout meets the Registration Requirements set forth in the *L-4 Lookouts on the Lolo National Forest Multiple Property Document* under the context *Role of the L-4 Lookout House in the development of the US Forest Service Region 1's Fire Detection System* and the *L-4 Lookout* property type. The period of significance identified for this property extends from its construction in 1932 through 1967, the end of the historical period; it conforms to the MPD cover context period. Double Arrow Lookout appears to have been manned continuously during the summer fire season.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Double Arrow Lookout was built in 1932, at the beginning of a period of concerted effort to complete improvements at primary lookout points throughout Region 1. Its construction

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occurred just a year after Regional Forester, Evan Kelly, approved Clyde Fickes' plans for the first iteration of the pyramidal-roof L-4 Lookout House. As such, it was likely one of the first L-4 lookouts to be built after the regional forester's approval in 1931. Judging from its early date of construction and its geographical location, Double Arrow Lookout would likely have been considered an "intensive" lookout point, i.e., a point selected to cover intensively areas of particularly high liability.

Although located fairly close to the community of Seeley Lake, in 1932 the Double Arrow site was only accessible by trail. A spur road to access the lookout was not completed until 1939, likely with New Deal funding. In October of that year, an inspector from the regional office stated that the "Double Arrow Lookout Spur: is in good enough condition for the use intended."³

The Lolo National Forest continued to include Double Arrow Lookout in its pre-suppression fire network through at least 1967, when it was listed as one of twenty-six lookouts to be manned during the summer fire season. It may have continued as a primary lookout through the early to mid 1980s, as Ray Kresek indicated that it was manned when he was assembling information for *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*.⁴ By 1992, however, it was no longer included in the Lolo's ground detection network.⁵ After sitting idle for more than a decade, Seeley Lake Ranger District began to restore the lookout, and in 2006 it was included in the region's cabin rental program. Safety modifications to the lookout tower and L-4 house (e.g., enclosing the stairs and the catwalk railing with wire mesh) are associated with this adapted reuse of the lookout.

³ G. W. Duncan, Equipment Engineer, "Memorandum (report of an inspection of road work on Powell and Lolo districts," October 10, 1939. Folder: Lolo 1938 – 1939 (4 of 4), Box 11, RG 95 Records of the US Forest Service Region 1, Inspection Reports, National Archives and Records Administration, Seattle (hereinafter NARA Seattle)..

⁴ Ray Kresek, *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest* (Fairfield Washington: Ye Galleon Press).

⁵ Press release dated Feb. 1992 "Seventy-Two Lookouts to be Operated This Summer Down from 800 Used in 1938" Folder: Historical: Lookouts, Box 46, RG95 Records of the US Forest Service Region 1 Historical Collection, circa 1905 - 1990, NARA Seattle.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Kresek, Ray
1984 *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest*. Fairfield Washington: Ye Galleon Press.

RG 95 Records of the US Forest Service, National Archives and Records Administration,
Seattle, Washington.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: National Archives & Records Administration, Seattle, WA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 24MO0157

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property roughly one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 47.164806 Longitude: -113.5311769525174

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 12 Easting: 308162.98 Northing: 5226587.07

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of this property is an arbitrary line drawn to encompass the top of the rocky knob containing the lookout and associated resources, roughly corresponding to the 4920' contour interval.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the primary improvements at this location, namely the lookout house and tower and associated features.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Janene Caywood
organization: CRCS
street & number: 1002 South 6th St. West
city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59801
e-mail: crs@montana.com
telephone: 406 728-9190
date: April 4, 2017

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

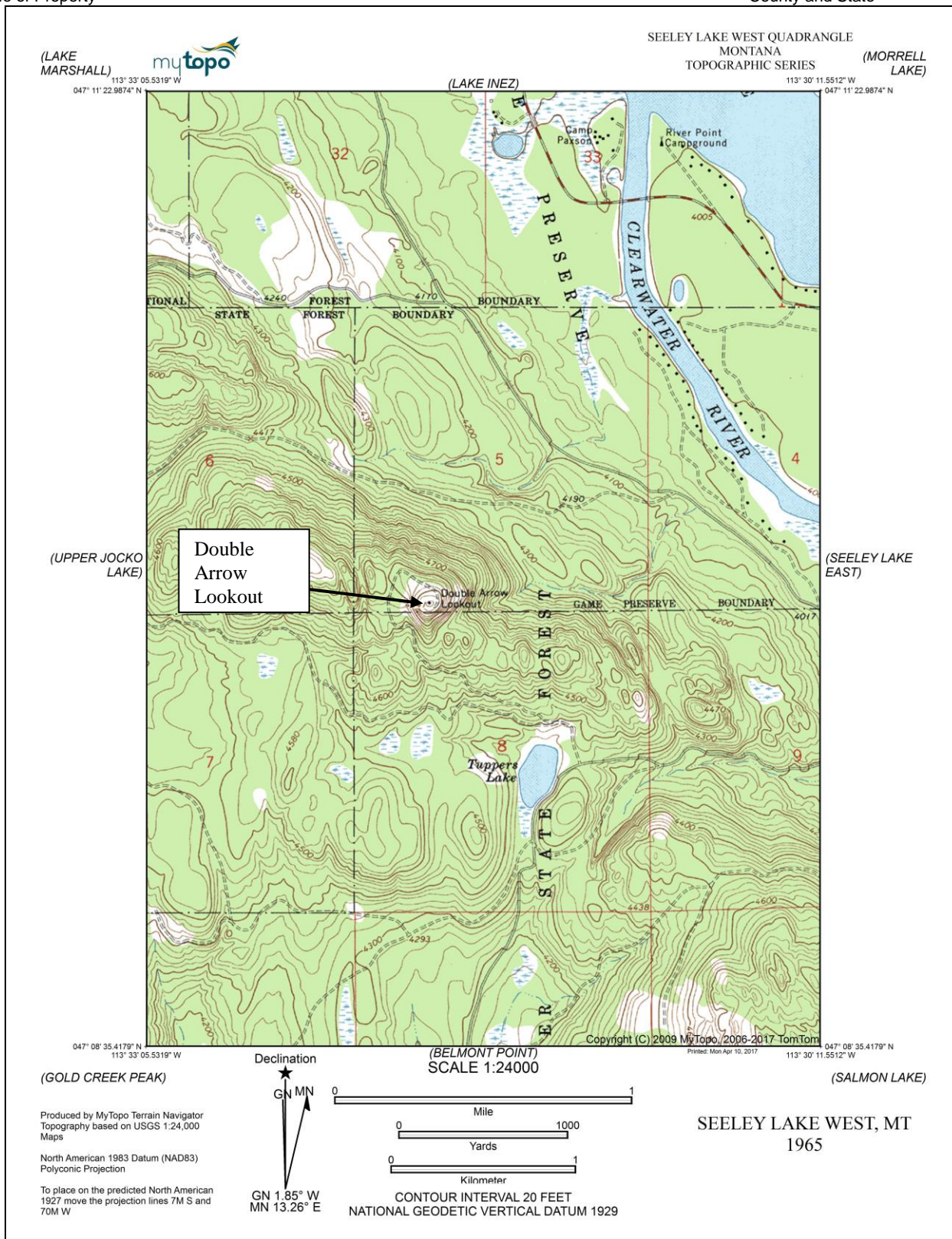
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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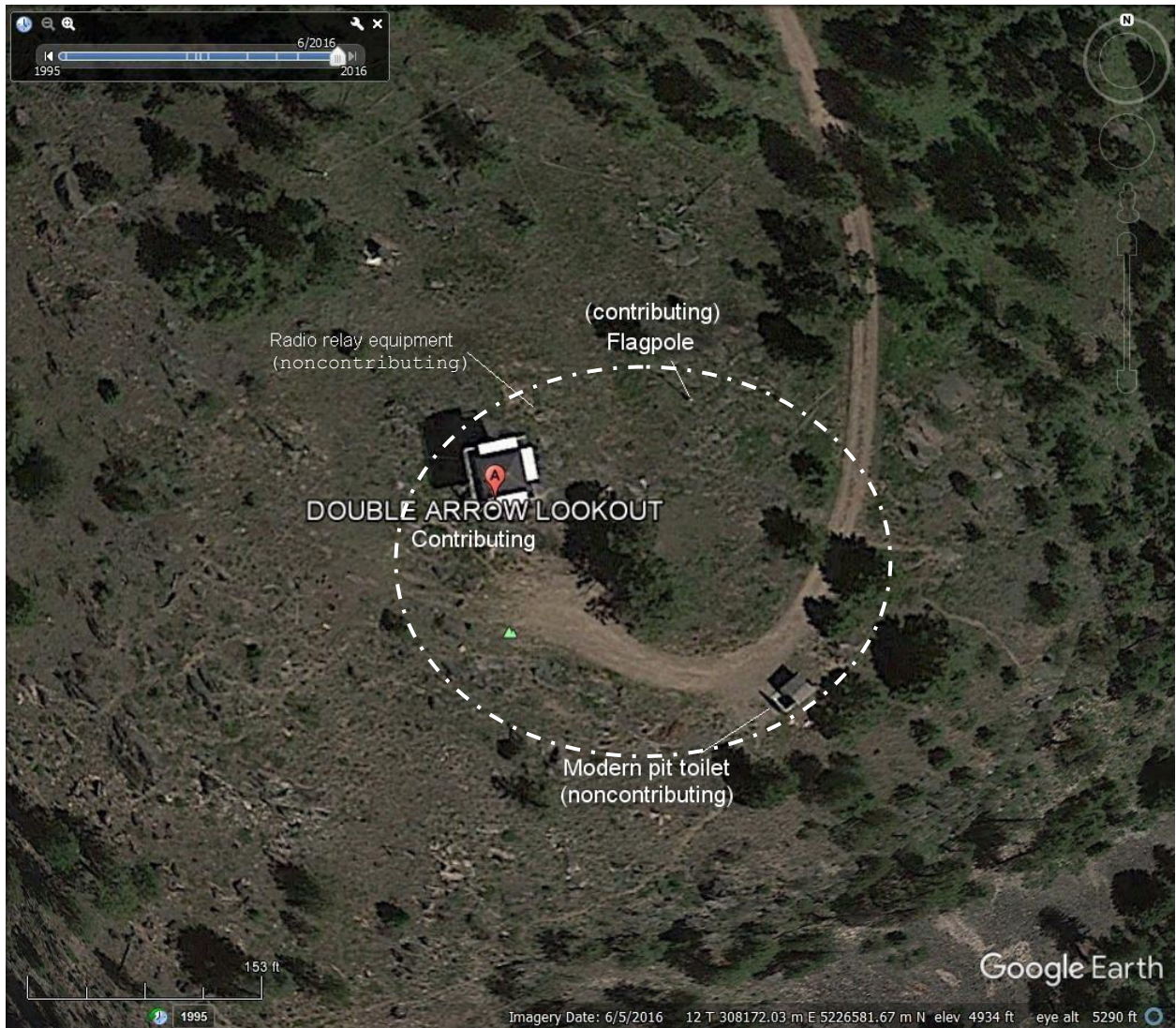
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Aerial View of the Double Arrow Lookout

Double Arrow Lookout

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600 x 1200 pixels (minimum), 3000 x 2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

All Photographs

Name of Property: Double Arrow Lookout

City or Vicinity: Seeley Lake

County: Missoula

State: Montana

Photographer: Janene Caywood & Sydney Bacon (East Zone Archaeologist)

Date Photographed: Autumn 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of ____.

See Below

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MT_MissoulaCounty_DoubleArrowLookout_0001. Looking northeast to the west and south walls of the Double Arrow Lookout.

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MT_MissoulaCounty_DoubleArrowLookout_0002. Looking south-southwest to the east (front) and north walls of the Double Arrow Lookout. Radio relay equipment in foreground.

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MT_MissoulaCounty_DoubleArrowLookout_0003. Detail of the door, located at the south end of the east wall.

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MT_MissoulaCounty_DoubleArrowLookout_0004. Looking down the stair through the open trapdoor.

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MT_MissoulaCounty_DoubleArrowLookout_0005. Interior of Double Arrow lookout house, view to east-southeast. Cabinet for refrigerator cleverly designed to look like the base for a fire-finder.

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MT_MissoulaCounty_DoubleArrowLookout_0006. Looking east-northeast: detail of the log stairway.

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MT_MissoulaCounty_DoubleArrowLookout_0007. Detail of concrete tower base stamped with "USFS / July 4, 1932." Note the two Ss, are inverted.

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MT_MissoulaCounty_DoubleArrowLookout_0008. Looking south to the modern, noncontributing pit toilet.

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MT_MissoulaCounty_DoubleArrowLookout_0009. Looking southwest to the flagpole.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.